

THOMAS ATKINSON.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 234.]

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MARCH 2, 1860.

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Mr. JOHN G. DAVIS, from the Committee on Public Lands, made the following

REPORT.

*The Committee on Public Lands, to whom was referred the petition of Thomas Atkinson, of Parke county, Indiana, report :*

That it appears from the evidence before them that, on the 30th day of August, 1837, the petitioner made application at the land office at Crawfordsville, Indiana, to enter the west half of northeast quarter of section 1, township 17, range 8 west ; that he was then informed by one Charles Tyler, the then register of said land office, that there was a vacancy in the office of receiver, in consequence of which the office was closed, and that the entry could not then be made ; that if the said Atkinson would deposit the amount necessary to enter said land with him (said Tyler) as such register, that it would be perfectly legal and proper ; and that, as soon as a receiver should be appointed, he would enter said land for said Atkinson, and forward him a duplicate for the same ; that said Atkinson, confiding in the honesty and integrity of said Tyler, and relying implicitly upon his word as to the legality of the transaction, deposited the amount necessary to enter said tract of land with said Tyler as such register, to wit, sixty-three dollars and seventy-two cents, and took his receipt therefor, which is hereto annexed and made part of this report ; that said Tyler never entered the said tract of land as he agreed to, but used the money thus paid him for his own private purposes ; that he was soon thereafter removed from office for various crimes, and was totally insolvent ; that said Atkinson not only lost the money thus paid to said register, but the land also.

The committee believe that the petitioner is entitled to relief, and have directed a bill to be reported authorizing the said Atkinson to enter eighty acres of land at any land office of the United States, by paying the government the difference between the amount paid as aforesaid to the said Tyler and the cost of said eighty acres of land at the minimum price of one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre.

Your committee further state that bills have passed Congress granting similar relief to Moses Petet and Henry Lewis for money paid said Tyler under precisely similar circumstances, (see Statutes at Large, vol. 10, page 826,) and to others.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Received, August 30, 1837, of Thomas Atkinson, of Parke county, sixty dollars and seventy-two cents, to be applied to the payment of the west half of northeast quarter of section 1, in township 17 north, of range 8 west, upon receiving the balance, say three dollars.

CHARLES TYLER.

Received, February 23, 1838, of Lot Lindsley three dollars.

C. TYLER.